

BESS Related Bills in the 89th Texas Legislature

The HCESRPC asks that you contact the House Representatives who are members of the House State Affairs Committee and Senators who are members of the Senate Business and Commerce Committee and ask them to support the following important bills. Committee member phone numbers along with an example of the type of request that you might make is also provided below for each committee.

For BESS Safety:

HB 1378 (Rep. Virdell) – “Good Neighbor Bill”: Requires 500-yard setback from property lines
HB 1343 (Rep. Troxclair): Introduces statewide permitting and spacing rules
HB 4363 (Rep. Money): Requires fire code compliance and developer-funded firefighter training
HB 5454 (Rep. Money): Expands county commissioner authority over industrial energy projects

For Market Distortion:

SB 714 (Sen. Sparks): Directs ERCOT and PUC to compensate for or eliminate market distortions
HB 3017 (Rep. Money): Imposes a Texas tax equal to the value of federal subsidies received

For EMP Protection:

SB 1740 (Sen. Parker): Aligns Texas grid protection standards with DOD levels and establishes a grant program
SB 75/HB 941 (Sen. Hall/Rep. Cain): Creates the Texas Grid Security Commission

The **House State Affairs Committee** members are:

Ken King	(512) 463-0736
Ana Hernandez	(512) 463-0614
Rafael Anchia	(512) 463-0746
Drew Darby	(512) 463-0331
Yvonne Darby	(512) 463-0598
Charlie Geren	(512) 463-0610
Ryan Guillen	(512) 463-0416
Lacey Hull	(512) 463-0727
John McQueeney	(512) 463-0608
Will Metcalf	(512) 463-0726
Dade Phelan	(512) 463-0706
Richard Pena Raymond	(512) 463-0558
John Smithee	(512) 463-0702
Sefronia Thompson	(512) 463-0720
Chris Turner	(512) 463-0574

Hello, my name is _____, I live in _____ County. I am calling in support of several bills that address Battery Energy Storage Systems. As a member of the State Affairs Committee, I ask that you support House Bills **941**-Briscoe Cain, **1343**-Ellen Troxclair, **1378**-Wes Virdell, **4363**-Brent Money and **5454** Brent Money.

As a result of the billions of federal funds that have been funneled into our state to support so called green renewable energy, Texas has become overly reliant on unreliable wind and solar energy and ERCOT is now trying to stabilize our grid by installing over 900 federally subsidized Battery Energy Storage Systems across Texas, and BESS Developers are now targeting the unincorporated areas of small counties where there are no regulations to protect the public. There is a history of lithium battery thermal runaway fires and explosions, which are extremely difficult to extinguish, and our rural volunteer firefighters lack sufficient foam and water to extinguish a lithium battery fire in a BESS facility. I live in a Priority Groundwater Management Area subject to frequent and extended severe droughts, and there could be catastrophic environmental impact associated with a BESS fire from the toxic gases that are released, and the contaminants that could find their way into our creeks, rivers and our precious groundwater. While I am opposed to any BESS facility in my county, it is critically important that adequate regulations are put in place to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our rural communities across Texas. So please support House Bills **941, 1343, 1378, 4363 and 5454**. Thank you.

The Senate Bills are sent to the **Senate Business and Commerce Committee**. The members are:

Sen. Charles Schwertner	<u>(512) 463-0105</u>
Sen. Phil King	<u>(512) 463-0110</u>
Sen. Cesar Blanco	<u>(512) 463-0129</u>
Sen. Donna Campbell	<u>(512) 463-0125</u>
Sen. Brandon Creighton	<u>(512) 463-0104</u>
Sen. Nathan Johnson	<u>(512) 463-0116</u>
Sen. Lois Kolkhorst	<u>(512) 463-0118</u>
Sen. Jose Menendez	<u>(512) 463-0126</u>
Sen. Mayes Middleton	<u>(512) 463-0111</u>
Sen. Robert Nichols	<u>(512) 463-0103</u>
Sen. Judith Zaffirini	<u>(512) 463-0121</u>

Hello, my name is _____, I live in _____ County. I am calling in support of several bills that address Battery Energy Storage Systems. As a member of the Senate Business and Commerce Committee I ask that you support **Senate Bills 75-Bob Hall, 714-Kevin Sparks, 1519-Donna Campbell, 1740-Tan Parker, and 1825-Charles Schwertner**.

As a result of the billions of federal funds that have been funneled into our state to support so called green renewable energy, Texas has become overly reliant on unreliable wind and solar energy and ERCOT is now trying to stabilize our grid by installing over 900 federally subsidized Battery Energy Storage Systems across Texas, and BESS Developers are now targeting the unincorporated areas of small counties where there are no regulations to protect the public. There is a history of lithium battery thermal runaway fires and explosions, which are extremely difficult to extinguish, and our rural volunteer firefighters lack sufficient foam and water to extinguish a lithium battery fire in a BESS facility. I live in a Priority Groundwater Management Area subject to frequent and extended severe droughts, and there could be catastrophic environmental impact associated with a BESS fire from the toxic gases that are released, and the contaminants that could find their way into our creeks, rivers and our precious groundwater. While I am opposed to any BESS facility in my county, it is critically important that adequate regulations are put in place to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our rural communities across Texas. So please support **Senate Bills 75, 714, 1519, 1740 and 1825**. Thank you.